

# PRELUDE



Volume XLVI, No. 2 October 2017

Eugene Symphony Guild Newsletter

*Mission Statement: The Eugene Symphony Guild supports the Eugene Symphony through fundraising, community education, and volunteer services.*

## MUSIC TO OUR EARS

The Eugene Symphony Association has graciously offered us a new benefit of being a member of the Guild. This program was announced at our General Meeting on September 20th by Scott Freck, Executive Director of the Symphony Association. The following criteria explains the program and how to partake in it. Questions can be directed to Carolyn Abbott as the procedures have not been "tested". However, what a great benefit and incentive for those of our members who do not currently have SEASON TICKET PACKAGES including new members!

Members must be new subscribers to Symphony packages or have not been subscribers for the past 3 years.

If purchasing a 5 concert package, you will receive a 10% discount.

If purchasing a 10 full concert package, you will receive a 15% discount.

Discounts do not apply to Special Concerts.

After subscribing, full concert subscribers will receive 1 free voucher to bring 1 guest to 1 concert.

Method of purchase will be:

Members should email Suzanne Shapiro, VP of Education and Social (mrses70@gmail.com) to obtain a coupon with a special code number to take to the Hult Center to purchase tickets. The Hult Center will apply the discount to the purchase. Be sure to write your name and type of package on the coupon.

The Hult will report back to the Symphony those members who have subscribed and at that time, the member will receive one free voucher from Lindsey McCarthy at the Symphony office. Our hope is that for members who have not been Symphony subscribers will find this to be "just the ticket" that will prompt them to become subscribers. The music will make you so happy that you subscribed. Please thank our Symphony Staff for this unique offer to the Guild.

*The October 18th meeting will be at the  
Masonic Lodge,  
2777 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
(Across from Autzen Stadium).  
Board Meeting at 9:00,  
General Meeting starts at 10:30.  
We will hold our annual Memorial  
tribute to our members who have passed  
away in the last year.  
We'll have our usual music, socializing  
and information regarding our  
November 11th Holiday Performance  
Festival and much more.*

### President's Message: Dear Members,



CHEERS TO 50 YEARS! That was the way we began our first General Meeting of the year (yes, with Mimosas). What a SPARKLING meeting we had to kick off the 50<sup>th</sup> Symphony season for the Guild. Scott Freck and Francesco Lecce-Chong were with us and Francesco turned the tables on us by asking us questions about how we feel about the Guild and Symphony. We will so enjoy his relationship with the Guild over the coming years .

**Message from Carolyn Abbott, continued...**

Other elements of the meeting are highlighted in other parts of the *Prelude*. I can't believe how the *Prelude* is growing as everyone rushes to get articles inserted. Thank you, Editor Judy, and please do read it page-to-page. There are many things going on, from the Open House in October for new and prospective members, October 17 Musical Chairs Tea, October meeting and concert and our November 11<sup>th</sup> Holiday Performance Festival. Keep watching your emails for more on all events in October.

The Guild year of 2017/2018 will be filled with 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and traditional events and I hope you will find it to be a fun and fulfilling time. Our continued life as a Guild depends on a net increase in members through the years. Many of our founders and long-term active members are taking some well-deserved "time outs." New members are the life blood of the organization, and it is important to bring them into our event planning and committee work. In accordance with our Strategic Plan, this year we are holding a Membership Drive in an effort to stimulate new and diverse sources of members.

Membership growth and Fundraising should be our mantra for the year. Let's turn the sliding figures on the chart around and start building our organization for the next 50 years! The Symphony is counting on us and our support! I know you all enjoy and appreciate the benefits of being a Guild member. And they are increasing! Please reach out to friends and neighbors, spa buddies, church members. See the ad in this *Prelude* regarding our Open House for New Members and Prospective Members. Please obtain invitations in the office to send to them.

Thank you all for your work on behalf of the Guild – See you soon!

Carolyn

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

October Happy Birthday wishes go to Marilyn Kays, Lin Hirst, Carolyn Abbott, Darian Fadeley, Sharon Munson, Martha Steward, and Starly Hodges. If I have missed anyone, please accept my deepest apologies and let me know so that I can correct my birthday list.  
Suzanne Shapiro

Cards for a Cause were a popular item at Music in the Garden and with our members. \$30 for 30 beautiful cards is such a bargain. These cards are still available for purchase by contacting Nancy Holloman, 541-228-1805. Please be aware that these cards do require an extra ounce postage stamp which only costs 21 cents. If you bought a box of the cards you will want to keep a small supply of extra ounce stamps on hand.

### Notes on New Members -

Be sure to give a warm hello to our members Mary Durfee, Corky Hughes and Lois Eagleton. Our newest member, Rebecca Callison, joined at our meeting on Sept. 20th. She and Mary were introduced at the meeting and received roses. Hopefully Lois and Corky will be at our next meeting and we can welcome them as well. We're happy to have them in the Guild.

## HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL

We're excited to be announcing the Guild's fall fundraiser for 2017. The nostalgia for our traditional Christmas Walk is palpable, but it is also impractical at this time. However, while investigating our 50 year history, we found the Guild held a Christmas Festival at South Eugene High in 1973 and they had the clown, Ronald McDonald, as an attraction.

So...we said, "Why not?" Our only available date for a good venue is November 11, Veterans' Day, 12 days before Thanksgiving and six weeks before Christmas. So....we said, "Why not? Let's celebrate all 3!" On Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, we'll have a fun Festival at the Grace Community Fellowship Church at 989 Country Club Rd., from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 PM (the Duck's game is away at 7:00). This location has a particularly unique configuration for our festival, with different areas appropriate to the 3 different holidays. Some of the entertainment will be; The Oregon Tuba Ensemble, Harpist Janet Naylor, a play written and directed by our own Suzanne Shapiro, The First United Methodist Church Bell Director and accompanist, Eric Alterman, cellist for the Delgani Quartet, The Inspirational Sounds Gospel Choir and more! Other attractions include; Bake sale, Children's Corner (yes, families are encouraged), Plant sale, Gift Baskets, Antiques and Christmas Heirloom sale, finger food and coffee bar with hot chocolate and more! Can't you smell the pumpkin pies?

Many of the required Guild members are in place for the different areas of the Festival. However, we need many more helpers. So take out your calendars and mark the date for a **STUPENDOUS** celebration that will highlight all the Holidays in one fell swoop. Also, please watch your phone messages and emails for requests from the Festival Committee to come play. As someone once said....,"it takes a village" and this will be a really fun village!

**EVERYONE CAN HELP US COLLECT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR SALE: SMALL PIECES OF FURNITURE (THAT WILL FIT IN AN SUV), ART WORK, GOOD CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS, GOOD CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS, GOOD JEWELRY (CAN BE VINTAGE BUT NOT A REQUIREMENT), THANKSGIVING AND FALL DECORATIONS, GOOD HANUKKAH ITEMS.** Call Melva Boles at 541-344-7677 or Carolyn Abbott at 541-485-3143 if you have any of the above for the Guild. Price of attending Festival to be determined and announced soon. Darian Fadeley, VP Fundraising

# Behind the Curtain, news from the Symphony

Greetings, Guild members!

Just as I was pleased to join you for your 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kick-off event at Valhalla Winery on September 10, I hope you were able to attend one of our two blockbuster concerts which began the Symphony's 52<sup>nd</sup> season last month.



What a night we had with soprano superstar Renée Fleming! Her gracious and commanding stage presence, combined with some of the most beautiful melodies ever put to paper, made it an evening we will long remember. She truly embodies what is best about our art form, and indeed our country.

Then, just nine days later we inaugurated a new era for our flagship Symphonic series on September 28, as Francesco Lecce-Chong officially began his tenure as Music Director & Conductor. In between Augusta Read Thomas' radiant *Aureole*, Joyce Yang's scorching rendition of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1, and orchestral heroics in Tchaikovsky's fateful yet affirming Symphony No. 4, we have set out on course for an extraordinary season of music. Come along!

Next up on October 19 is one of my favorite programs of the year, dubbed Piano Fireworks by our marketers, which I assure you will not disappoint. Rising star Conrad Tao tackles not one but two works for piano and orchestra, including Ravel's unique and inspiring Concerto for the Left Hand (yes, you read that right...) and Liszt's bone-rattling Totentanz. Bracketing these piano features are Mozart's most dazzling symphony and Richard Strauss' insouciant portrait of a medieval trickster, *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*. Fireworks abound.

This month we also are preparing the way for our many music education and community engagement programs...more to come on that front, including our first pair of elementary school Youth Concert in November. We're off and running!

Thanks as always for all that you do for the Guild, for the Symphony, and most of all, for our beloved community here in Eugene and beyond.

My best,

Scott Freck  
Executive Director

## *Principal Volunteers*

One of our Guild responsibilities is providing the ESA office staff with receptionist coverage at the front desk in two daily shifts Monday through Friday. This is a financial contribution since it saves the salary of this job. However, we need more Guild members to step up and take a shift weekly or once or twice a month - whenever your schedule permits. Please contact Suzanne Shapiro to discuss a possible shift. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Office Volunteers, you need to be aware that the office shift times are changing the 1st Monday in October to run through the end of June. The new shift times will be AM 10:00 - 1:30, PM 1:30 - 5:00. Each shift is now 1/2 hour shorter and the morning shift starts an hour later. You will have name badges to wear for your shift instead of the name card in cardholder on the desk. Your name badges can be clipped on your blouse, jacket or sweater or worn with a lanyard. The name badges and lanyards may be found in the upper left cupboard at the front desk. You are all valued so much by the ESA staff for the time you give to the office.

*Suzanne Shapiro*

# Behind the Curtain, news from the Symphony

## OCTOBER CONCERT— OPENING THOUGHTS

Can you imagine a piano concerto for only the left hand? Well you won't want to miss this one! Originally commissioned of Ravel by a pianist who had lost his right arm in World War I, the concerto was premiered by that pianist with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra in 1932. More recently, when noted pianist Leon Fleisher lost the use of his right hand due to a condition known as focal dystonia, he played and recorded this concerto and other works in the left-handed repertoire while searching for a cure. Eventually, after experimental treatments with botox, he regained the use of his right hand and was able to resume playing with both hands.

The multi-talented Conrad Tao will be the soloist for this unique concerto. Born in Illinois to Chinese parents who were scientists, he began playing piano by ear at the age of 18 months after listening to his older sister's piano lessons. He gave his first piano recital at age 4, and at age 8, performed a Mozart piano concerto with the Utah Chamber Music Festival Orchestra. By age 9, he and his family moved to New York City where he began studying at Juilliard. Since that time, Conrad also studied violin and composition. He has achieved such feats as playing both a Mendelssohn violin concerto and piano concerto in the same concert. As a composer, he was composer-in-residence in 2009-10 with Chicago's Music in the Loft concert series. Conrad has performed with orchestras all over the world, won numerous awards, and managed to complete his education. All this, and he is still in his 20's!

The remainder of our concert contrasts the light texture of Mozart's *Symphony No. 31, "Paris,"* with the darkness of Liszt's *Totentanz* (also featuring Conrad Tao) and the playful and dramatic *Till Eulenspiegel* by Richard Strauss. Sandra Weingarten

### **CONCERT PREVIEWS AT THE HULT**

*Please join us for Concert Previews at 6:30 in The Studio, downstairs at the Hult on the night of the concert. The Guild sponsors these fun and informative 1/2 hour presentations and we like to see lots of our members in attendance. Usually introduced by the Guild President, the Maestro gives us 30 minutes of insight into the evening's music as well as interviews with guest soloists. Join other Guild members in the front row left.*

## NOVEMBER YOUTH CONCERT

Fall is here, and the first Youth Concert is fast approaching. On Tuesday, November 14, school children will be arriving from all over the area to hear our Symphony perform – many for the first time. Supporting our Symphony by helping to usher at the Youth Concerts is one of our Guild's signature projects. Please come to help usher, and invite a friend to come to help as well – they are sure to enjoy the performance – and we can use the extra help. When you receive a phone call to help at the concert please say yes – it is a most rewarding experience! THANK YOU.

### **AND, STAY TUNED!**

Coming in November, The Eugene Symphony Presents:

You don't want to miss the November 16, 2017, 7:30 PM performance of the Paganini Violin Concerto No. 1 by virtuoso violinist Simone Porter. Prepare to be absolutely blown away, just as those were who heard Paganini perform it himself in March 1819! Guest Conductor Laura Jackson will also lead the orchestra in performance of Dvorak's moving Seventh Symphony and Berlioz' sparkling Roman Carnival Overture. Melva Boles



*MUSICIAN OF THE MONTH –*

*OCTOBER*

Steve Vacchi plays bassoon and contrabassoon in our Symphony. But did you know that he also plays rare instruments like the contrabass clarinet and heckelphone. When not playing, or teaching at the U of O, Steve enjoys wine tasting, traveling and distance swimming.

Come meet Steve at the Guild's October 18 meeting and hear him on the bassoon – which bassoon?— and at the October 19 Symphony concert!

Feel free to print a copy of the *Prelude* when it is delivered to your email address for future reference. Current and past issues of the *Prelude* can be found on the Guild website, <https://eugenesymphonyguild.org/membership/newsletter>

**LAURA AVERY VISITING MASTERS**

Master Classes - Eugene Symphony guest artists provide public coaching sessions for local student musicians.

Tuesdays 4:00-5:30 pm

Free and open to the public

**OCT. 17, 2017**

Conrad Tao, *piano*

Beall Hall, University of Oregon School of Music and Dance

**NOV. 14, 2017**

Simone Porter, *violin*

The Studio, Hult Center for the Performing Arts

**JAN. 23, 2018**

Jon Kimura Parker, *piano*

Beall Hall, University of Oregon School of Music and Dance

**MANY THANKS TO ALL!**

We hope you were able to attend our "Cheers to 50 Years" party. The clear, blue skies, happy guests, lovely music, vintage/classic cars and beautifully modeled vintage clothing, delicious food and wine made for a perfect afternoon of celebrating at Valhalla Winery! Thank you to all who attended and a HUGE THANK YOU to our 50th Anniversary Committee: Christine Hogan, Carolyn Abbott, Sue Ashton, Melva Boles, Betsy Patton, Sandra Weingarten, Pat Ross, Ginger Fifield, Darian Fadeley, Amy Jo Butler, and Kay Hanson.

Sylvia Kaufman, Chair

***Don't Forget! Two More Musical Chairs Parties:***

\*Join us for Afternoon Tea, at Eugene's "Castle on the Hill", Shelton McMurphey Johnson House. Afternoon Tea includes tea sandwiches, savories, scones and dessert. October 17th at 1:00—3 pm. Carol Welch, 541-334-5187.

\*Come hear highly respected American bird expert, Noah Stryker, Birder Extraordinaire at Sprout, Springfield, November 15th, at 6:00—8 pm. Nancy Holloman, 541-228-1805.

## Open House for New and Prospective Members

The Membership Committee of the Eugene Symphony Guild is sponsoring an Open House for new and prospective members on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at the Tate, 1375 Olive Street, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. This is part of a membership drive that will be carried on throughout the year. This is an orientation for our new members and prospective members as an introduction to the Guild. Guests will gather in the Tate Common Room for a presentation by Scott Freck, Eugene Symphony Director and special guest, Francesco Lecce-Chong, the new Conductor of the Symphony. Attendees will get an opportunity to learn about the Guild from Carolyn Abbott, the Guild President, and the V.P.s of the areas the Guild supports—education, youth outreach, fundraising, Symphony office support and special interest groups. After the presentations appetizers, wine and other beverages will be offered.

This event is by invitation only for new and prospective members and members bringing a guest. At the General Meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>, members received invitations to send to their friends and acquaintances who might be interested in joining the Guild. If you know someone who might be interested, please have them RSVP to Ginger Fifield 760-550-0515 or [gfield11@gmail.com](mailto:gfield11@gmail.com).

## SOCIAL NOTES

### Pre-Concert Dining

YOU ARE INVITED—to dine with the Eugene Symphony Guild at a pre-concert dinner at the Sixth Street Grill before the concert this month. We will gather at 5 PM to eat, socialize and have fun. Call Darian Fadeley, 541-942-9851, to reserve your place at the table. Thank you and hope to see you! *Don't forget, the concert start time is now 7:30 PM!*

### Book Club

Our book for October is Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance. We will meet at the home of Glenda Hay, 252 Spyglass Dr. J.D. Vance's book tells us about his struggle to reconstruct his future. He later went to Yale Law School. We should have a great discussion about his inspiring life, come join us, Oct. 9, at 7 PM.

### Arm Chair Travelers

Star Clipper journey to Bali, Indonesia presented by Charlotte Taber and Sandy Harland. A new cultural experience as they visit villages, temples and watched Balinese dancers. Date October 23, at Bonnie Fromhold's home, at 7:00 PM.

### Guild Bridge Group

The Guild Bridge Group will meet on lucky Friday, October the 13th at the home of Nancy Holloman from 1 to 4 PM. Call Nancy at 541-228-1805 to reserve your place.

### In the Works -Yoga

Love yoga but still looking for the right teacher? Please join me on Thursday mornings at 10 AM for an hour of gentle stretching with Helen Park who is willing to donate her time to the Guild. She has been practicing yoga for 50 years and continues to attend classes herself several times a week. She does not charge because she is not licensed or bonded. But she really knows her stuff! A small group can meet at her home. For a larger group we will meet at the Friends Meeting House where there is a fee of \$20 for an hour so we will need to take up a small collection. Please call me for more information. Nancy Holloman, 541-228-1805.

## On Another Note: MY FRONT DOOR, An Introduction

Yes, this is my front door. It has a little story. When my husband and I started our plans for building our retirement home I taught myself 3-D Architect on a very basic level. The floor plan became a happy passion and I moved walls, fireplaces and showers with glee. We had it drawn up for Lane County specs and found a contractor. One day early on I was fussing over booklets and catalogues when the contractor asked why. "I can't find my door!" I cried. (Really, I cried.) He laughed and said, just design what you want and we'll make it for you. Then the clouds parted, and light shined and my husband cried. Well, the door became about the forest we live in; all the different woods, fir, cedar, maple, madrone, alder, along with planted walnut, apple, chestnut, pear and a cherry tree.

They are all different, by grain, by strength, color tones, narrow and wide, short and majestic. I love every one of them. This is topped by the rays of light beaming forth through the trees. Now you have a picture of me and my crazy love for all things being unique and different coming together in a beautiful mixture, just like this Guild. We're our own kind of orchestra, bringing our own gifts to the world. Thank you for welcoming me, I look forward to getting to know you all better. Judy England, Editor



*All material for the Prelude is due on the 15th and no later than the 20th of each month prior to publication. Any material received after the 20th will subject to being moved to the following month's publication. Thank you for your cooperation.*

*Judy England, Prelude Editor*



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